

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1312

To save lives and prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles through
an improved national, State, and local child protection program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 1997

Mr. ABRAHAM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To save lives and prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles through an improved national, State, and local child protection program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Passenger Pro-
5 tection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The annual losses in the United States from
9 motor vehicle collisions are estimated to exceed 800

1 deaths and 80,000 injuries to children under the age
2 of 5.

3 (2) It is estimated that properly used child re-
4 straints in motor vehicles can reduce the chance of
5 serious or fatal injury in a motor vehicle collision—

6 (A) by a factor of 69 percent with respect
7 to infants; and

8 (B) by a factor of 47 percent with respect
9 to children under the age of 5.

10 (3) Some of the most common seating position
11 designs that have emerged in motor vehicles during
12 the last decade make secure installation of child re-
13 straints difficult and, in some circumstances, impos-
14 sible.

15 (4) Results from regional child restraint clinics
16 demonstrated that 70 to 90 percent of child re-
17 straints are improperly installed or otherwise mis-
18 used and the improper installation or other misuse
19 is largely attributable to the complication and wide
20 variations in seat belt and child restraint designs.

21 (5) There is an immediate need to expand the
22 availability of national, State, and local child re-
23 straint education programs and supporting resources
24 and materials to assist agencies and associated orga-

1 nizations in carrying out effective public education
2 concerning child restraints.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) CHILD RESTRAINT EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

6 The term “child restraint education program” in-
7 cludes a publication, audiovisual presentation, dem-
8 onstration, or computerized child restraint education
9 program.

10 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Transportation.

12 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any
13 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
14 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
15 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the
16 Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory
17 or possession of the United States.

18 **SEC. 4. CHILD PASSENGER EDUCATION.**

19 (a) AWARDS.—The Secretary may enter into con-
20 tracts or cooperative agreements with, and may make
21 grants to, State highway agencies and child passenger
22 safety organizations that are recognized for their experi-
23 ence to obtain and distribute national, State, and local
24 child restraint education programs and supporting edu-
25 cational materials.

1 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided to an agency
2 or organization under a contract, cooperative agreement,
3 or grant under subsection (a) shall be used to implement
4 child restraint programs that—

5 (1) are designed to prevent deaths and injuries
6 to children under the age of 5; and

7 (2) educate the public concerning—

8 (A) all aspects of the proper installation of
9 child restraints using standard seatbelt hard-
10 ware, supplemental hardware and modification
11 devices (if needed), including special installation
12 techniques; and

13 (B) appropriate child restraint design se-
14 lection and placement and in harness threading
15 and harness adjustment; and

16 (3) train and retrain child passenger safety pro-
17 fessionals, police officers, fire and emergency medi-
18 cal personnel, and other educators concerning all as-
19 pects of child restraint use.

20 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—An agency or organi-
21 zation that receives funds made available to the agency
22 or organization under a contract, cooperative agreement,
23 or grant under subsection (a) shall, in carrying out sub-
24 section (b)—

1 (1) use not more than 25 percent of those
2 funds to support nationwide child restraint edu-
3 cation programs that are in operation at the time
4 that the funds are made available;

5 (2) use not more than 25 percent of those
6 funds to support State child restraint education pro-
7 grams that are in operation at the time that the
8 funds are made available; and

9 (3) use at least 50 percent of those funds to im-
10 plement national, State, and local child restraint
11 education programs that are not in operation at the
12 time that the funds are made available.

13 **SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS AND REPORTS.**

14 (a) APPLICATIONS.—To enter into a contract, cooper-
15 ative agreement, or grant agreement under section 4(a),
16 the appropriate official of an agency or organization de-
17 scribed in that section shall submit an application to the
18 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
19 by such information as the Secretary may reasonably re-
20 quire.

21 (b) REPORTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate official of
23 each agency or organization that enters into a con-
24 tract, cooperative agreement, or grant agreement
25 under section 4(a) shall prepare and submit to the

1 Secretary, an annual report for the period covered
2 by the contract, cooperative agreement, or grant
3 agreement.

4 (2) REPORTS.—A report described in paragraph
5 (1) shall—

6 (A) contain such information as the Sec-
7 retary may require; and

8 (B) at a minimum, describe the program
9 activities undertaken with the funds made avail-
10 able under the contract, cooperative agreement,
11 or grant agreement, including—

12 (i) any child restraint education pro-
13 gram that has been developed directly or
14 indirectly by the agency or organization
15 and the target population of that program;

16 (ii) support materials for such a pro-
17 gram that have been obtained by that
18 agency or organization and the method by
19 which the agency or organization distrib-
20 uted those materials; and

21 (iii) any initiatives undertaken by the
22 agency or organization to develop public-
23 private partnerships to secure non-Federal
24 support for the development and distribu-

1 tion of child restraint education programs
2 and materials.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

4 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
6 prepare, and submit to Congress, a report on the imple-
7 mentation of this Act that includes a description of the
8 programs undertaken and materials developed and distrib-
9 uted by the agencies and organizations that receive funds
10 under section 4(a).

11 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 For the purpose of carrying out section 4, there are
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of
14 Transportation \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 1998
15 and 1999, of which not more than \$350,000 may be spent
16 in any fiscal year for administrative costs.

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